



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

CONVENTION BETWEEN ITALY AND ARGENTINA.

Measures Against Importation of Cholera, Plague, and Yellow Fever.

The following translation of a convention concluded between Italy and Argentina was received from the American Embassy at Rome, October 15:

NOTIFICATION OF EPIDEMICS.

Each of the two Governments engages itself to notify the other immediately of any appearance on its territory of plague, cholera, or yellow fever, accompanying the notification, or transmitting after it, detailed information regarding the place where the disease has appeared, the date, origin, and form of its appearance, the number of cases ascertained, and the number of deaths, the extension of the infected districts and the measures immediately adopted. Every week detailed information shall be sent during the course of the epidemics.

Each of the two Governments engages itself to make compulsory in its territory the report of cases of plague, cholera, or yellow fever, and to collect information in regard to any unusual mortality of rats in the sea and river ports. It engages itself, moreover, to take steps for preventing the landing of persons who may have been in contact with sick people, or who show symptoms of the said three diseases; the exportation of goods or other things infected, or which have not been disinfected on land, under the supervision of the Government health officials; the embarking of rats in case of plague and of mosquitoes in case of yellow fever, assuring in case of cholera the purity of the drinking water. The two Governments engage themselves also to put the (infected) ship in charge of a Government physician, in the manner which shall be stated here below.

The notification of one case of plague, cholera, or yellow fever ascertained in the territory of the two countries does not, however, authorize the Government of the other country to consider or treat as infected the district where the case has been found. A district can not be considered as infected unless many nonimported cases of cholera or yellow fever have been found, or where some cases of cholera appearing in the neighborhood of the first case indicate that it has been impossible to confine the disease to the spot where it first appeared.

The measures which each Government may deem proper to adopt shall be applicable only in case of arrival from infected places. The exclusion of these places shall be determined on the basis of the foregoing information. The two Governments engage themselves on this point to furnish the necessary data with the greatest exactness.

INFECTED VESSELS AND IMMUNE VESSELS.

Against vessels coming from an infected place no measure can be adopted, if the departure took place at least five days before the beginning of the epidemic. A place shall cease to be considered infected after the official declaration that no new case and no death have occurred from plague or cholera during five days and from yellow fever during 18 days after the isolation, death, or recovery of the last sick person and after the declaration that all the necessary disinfections have been made and, for plague or yellow fever, all the measures adopted against rats and mosquitoes.

The contracting Governments shall consider immune a vessel coming from a port included in an infected district of either country, or upon which persons coming from an infected district are embarked, if during the travel or at the arrival no deaths from plague, cholera, or yellow fever and no cases of these diseases have occurred, and shall consider infected a vessel coming from any port and having on its arrival plague, cholera, or yellow fever on board, or upon which cases of any such diseases have been discovered during the voyage.

Immune vessels are admitted to free pratique. The health authorities of the port of arrival may only prescribe the medical visit, the disinfection of dirty linen and of suspected objects, and the surveillance, during five or six days, of the passengers and members of the crew in the places to which each of them departs.

Infected vessels shall undergo a rigorous treatment: (1) Medical visit; (2) landing and isolation of sick persons; (3) the other persons shall land and be subject, from the moment of their arrival, to observation on board or in a sanitary station, as well as to a special watch for a period of not more than five days for plague and cholera and six days for yellow fever; (4) dirty linen and all things belonging to the crew and passengers shall be disinfected in case the health authorities of the port have special reasons to consider them infected; (5) the ship shall be subject to total or partial disinfection, according to the judgment of the port health authorities.

MEASURES FOR PREVENTION AND REPRESSION.

Those vessels which, at their departure from one of the two countries, or during the voyage, have stopped in an infected port, without having been in communication with the land, or only landing passengers and embarking mail exclusively, shall not be considered as coming from an infected port.

If it is a question of yellow fever, the ship shall also be kept as far as possible from the coast, 200 meters at least. The prophylactic measures against cholera, yellow fever, and plague, eventually adopted in an intermediate port, not belonging to either of the contracting parties, shall not exclude the right of submitting the ship on its arrival to the same operations.

Goods coming from an infected port can in no case be sent back or submitted to disinfection except for special reasons, depending upon circumstances ascertained on board. In case of plague or of cholera, objects of personal use, not new (even if not contained in postal parcels) and rags may be submitted to disinfection. Letters and correspondence, books, newspapers, commercial papers, etc., can not undergo any restriction or disinfection.

HEALTH OFFICIALS.

The two Governments engage themselves to exempt from the required medical visit and from the disinfection of linen and of objects of use, etc., the vessels immune coming from the ports of each of the two countries, and having on board a governmental physician in charge, specially appointed by the country of origin. The necessary disinfection shall be made during the voyage. To this end each vessel shall have implements of disinfection for the application on board of all prophylactic measures.

The declarations made in an official form by the royal commissioners on the ships coming from Italy, and the declarations which they have registered on the daily health record and on the daily navigation record in regard to the sanitary conditions on board at the departure and during the voyage, shall be accepted as demonstrating its status by the health authorities of Argentina in the ports of arrival. The same treatment shall be made in the Italian ports to vessels coming from Argentina and having on board health officials under the same conditions.

Each Government shall ascertain, in conformity with its laws, the competence of the Italian royal commissioners or of the sanitary inspectors of the Argentine ships with regard to naval hygiene and sanitary, microscopic, and bacteriologic cleanliness applied to the hygiene and clinics of infectious-diffusive diseases.

SHIPS FOR EMIGRANTS.

The two Governments reserve to themselves the right of adopting special measures for ships in bad hygienic condition or too crowded. It shall not, however, be allowed to consider as too crowded those emigration ships which come from an Italian port and have on board a royal commissioner for emigration, if they have on board all the accommodations contemplated by the Italian and Argentine laws on emigration, as well as the registered apparatus of stoves (apparatus for disinfection), and if the number of passengers and emigrants on board does not exceed the maximum contemplated by the above-mentioned laws.

The two Governments recognize as valid the measures, applied to the ships in each of the two countries, provided they be certified by an official document, and be in conformity with the established requirements. Among these measures the destruction of rats, which is compulsory for all ships making a regular service between the ports of the two countries, shall be included. The destruction of rats shall be made at least once every six months.

The harbor authorities of the two countries shall issue to the captain, to the owner or to his agent, if requested, a certificate stating the nature of the measures and the reasons why they have been adopted.

The two Governments recognize that, in pursuance of this convention, no interference shall be implied by either of them in the policy which the other follows in the adoption, organization, and execution of the prophylactic measures in the interior of its own territory.

Vessels complying with all the requirements contemplated in the present convention can not enjoy the facilities which might derive therefrom.

The duration of the present convention shall be 23 years; if not denounced 6 months before the end of this term by either of the contracting Governments it shall be considered as extended for a further period of 3 years.

AUSTRALIA.

Sydney—Examination of Rodents.

According to a statement issued by the department of health of New South Wales, 591 rodents were examined at Sydney for plague infection during the two weeks ended September 14, 1912. No plague-infected rodent was found.

CHINA.

Hongkong—Plague—Examination of Rats.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended August 26, 1912, there were reported at Hongkong 2 cases of plague with 2 deaths.

During the same period there were examined for plague infection 1,262 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

Nanking—Cholera.

Cholera was reported prevalent, August 29, at Nanking. One case was reported among Europeans.

Shanghai—Cholera.

During the week ended September 7, 1912, there were reported 7 cases of cholera occurring in the non-Chinese population, which numbers 14,000 inhabitants.

CUBA.

Habana—Examination of Rats.

During the week ended October 5, 1912, there were examined at Habana for plague infection 535 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Plague on Steamship in River Tyne.

The following information was taken from a statement issued September 28, 1912, by the local government board:

An imported case of human plague has occurred on board a vessel in the River Tyne Port sanitary district.

The patient was an apprentice on board the steamship *Bellavilla*, which arrived in the River Tyne from Hamburg on the morning of September 10. Later in the day the boy was taken ill and was removed to the floating hospital as a case of typhoid fever. On the following day the port medical officer of health suspected the case to be plague, and a sample of the patient's blood was taken for examination. On September 13 the bacteriologist at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, reported that cultures from the material showed colonies resembling *B. pestis*, and further samples of blood were taken.

The boy died on September 16, and on September 18 a post-mortem examination was made by the port medical officer of health and further material obtained for examination. The diagnosis of the case as one of plague has been confirmed at the board's laboratory.